sion include improved interaction at governmental and business level, exchange of trade delegations, arranging of buyer-seller meets and participation in trade fairs. In the case of Spain, the Joint Business Council met in New Delhi in March, 1994 while the Indo-Spanish Joint Committee is expected to meet in October this year. Some of the Indian trade delegations which visited Spain in the recent past include representatives of MPEDA, Tobacco Board, Solvent Extractors' Association and the Export Promotion Councils for Leather, Handicrafts, Carpets and Gem and Jewellery.

(b) Major items of export to Spain are marine products, leather and leather manufacturer, textile goods, drugs pharmaceuticals and chemicals. Imports from Spain inter-alia include organice chemicals, artificial resins, plastic materials iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, machinery and projects goods.

(c) Some areas of potential export interest to India are agricultural products, automobile ancillaries, sports goods, tea, coffee and tobacco while there are possibilities of importing items such as chemicals, professional items and optical goods from Spain.

Import of essential commodities through STC

810. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration regarding import of essential commodities in order to maintain price stablity in case the domestic production falls short; and

(b) if so, whether all such imports be made exclusively through the STC?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Depending on the requirements for the Public Distribution System determined by the Food Ministry and Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution, import of sugar and Palmolein is being undertaken by STC and MMTC, for augmenting supplies under PDS.

(b) Import of these items is not canalised through STC.

Import of waste paper

811. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India imports 20,000 tonnes of waste paper for recycling;

(b) if so, what is the annual waste paper collected in India;

(c) to what extent the recycling of this paper is done by the industry;

(d) what are the reasons for importing such a huge quantity of waste paper for the country.

(e) what are the names of the countries from where waste paper is being imported and at what cost;

(f) whether Government are considering to ban this import of waste paper from 1994 onwards; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) It is a fact that waste paper is being imported into India for recyling. As this item does not appear separately in Indian Trade Classification based on Harmonised Commodity Description, information regarding the import o waste paper is not available separately. However, dur-